



A history of coffee makers

A coffee-table book for true coffee lovers

ince it's only on the planet's waistline that coffee is grown, it's only natural that some of the most beautiful coffee makers originally came from there. Coffee addicts Enrico Maltoni and Mauro Carli combed through the homes of dozens of collectors and found a hand-chiselled, embossed brass pot from Indonesia and a simple terracotta coffee maker with a big belly from Ethiopia. Then, they kept looking around and discovered 1998 more.

Maltoni and Carli, who are both Italian, put in nearly two years of effort in creating Coffeemakers (Rs 11,600). To flip through it is like flipping through the history of the world (at least, when the world was in its mid-teens). Charting 400 years, with 2700 photographs, 220 advertising postcards and 60 technical drawings, the book shows how the coffee maker changed hands from Africa to the Middle East to Europe. How the Dutch



↑ UK and France once made coffee makers decorated with lacquering and motifs.

swooped in creating fancy designs with brass and copper, how the British started adding lacquering and motifs, how the French started fashioning them out of beakers. How, at the height of the Industrial Revolution, one enterprising man made a ceramic one in the shape of a locomotive. How, by the 1900s, America started making them by the boatload (a habit that hasn't waned since). And, how, in the 1920s, when the world was gearing up for another war, Siemens in Germany crafted nickel-plated ones that looked a lot like trophies.

Maltoni and Carli have taken the humble coffeepot and exhibited the storm brewing inside it. They've catalogued, page after gorgeous page, all the different ways in which we've historically brewed, boiled, filtered, steamed and poured our coffee. They've shown how 400 years later, we're still trying to get it right.

EKTA MOHTA



1 A coffee maker crafted in glass and porcelain



↑ Russian-made apparatus in copper, with two decorated porcelain coffee pots

